

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 21-29, 31 and 47-72 remain pending in the present application including independent claims 21, 53 and 71. The presently pending claims are generally directed to an embossed paper product. For instance, the paper product can comprise a base web, which includes pulp fibers. The base web of the paper product includes a well-defined, decorative pattern, which may cover from about 2% to about 60% of the surface area of the web.

The decorative pattern is embossed into the web by a combination of heat and pressure applied together at a heated embossing nip such that the pulp fibers of the web are bonded together. The embossing nip may be formed between a rigid pattern roll and a backing roll covered by a resilient elastomeric material, commonly known as a rubber backing roll. The combination of the heat and pressure applied at the compliant nip allows for a well-defined, resilient embossment to be formed.

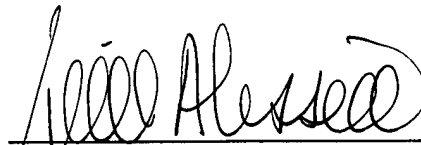
The decorative pattern that is embossed into the web is defined by fiber bonding areas. As now amended, all of the independent claims require that the bonding areas be at least 0.02 inches deep.

In the latest Office Action, dependent claims 69 and 70 were indicated as being allowable. In claims 69 and 70, the fiber bonding areas were defined as being from 0.02 inches to about 0.06 inches deep. In a prior response, Applicants asserted that Britt teaches a damask-like product that discloses shallow grooves. In view of the fact that claims 69 and 70 were indicated as being allowable over Britt, Applicants submit that all of the independent claims are now in complete condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentably distinctive over the prior art of record. Applicants believe that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested.

Examiner Hug is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned should any issues remain after consideration of this response. Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Timothy A. Cassidy", written over a horizontal line.

November 29, 2004

Date

Timothy A. Cassidy

Reg. No. 38,024

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

P.O. Box 1449

Greenville, SC 29602

(864) 271-1592

Fax (864) 233-7342